Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A DNA sequence encoding the functional human IL-18BP promoter encoded by [[(]]SEQ ID NO:1[[)]], or a functional human IL-18BP promoter activity containing fragment or a functional human IL-18BP promoter activity containing derivative thereof wherein the 3' end of said DNA sequence or fragment thereof comprises one to 51 ~~or more~~ nucleotides from the 5' end of SEQ ID NO: 5.

2. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 1, wherein the derivative is mutated at one or more AP1 sites present in a silencer element present in the sequence.

3. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 1, wherein the fragment comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 1, wherein the fragment comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. (Previously presented) The DNA sequence according to claim 1, further comprising an intron.

6. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 5, wherein the intron consists of the first intron of IL-18BP.

7. (Previously presented) The DNA sequence according to claim 1, further containing a gene operatively linked to the IL-18BP promoter.

8. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 7, wherein the gene encodes IL-18BP.

9. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 7, wherein the gene encodes a heterologous protein.

10. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 9, wherein the heterologous gene encodes the luciferase gene.

11. (Original) The DNA sequence according to claim 9, wherein the heterologous gene encodes a protein selected from interferon-beta, TNF, erythropoietin, tissue plasminogen activator, granulocyte colony stimulating factor, manganese-superoxide 41 dismutase, an immunoglobulin, or fragment thereof, growth hormone, FSH, hCG, IL- 1 8, hsLDLR and TNF receptor binding proteins.

12. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 1.

13. (Original) A host cell comprising a vector according to claim 12.

14. (Original) A host cell according to claim 13, being a mammalian cell.

15. (Previously presented) A host cell according to claim 14, selected from the group consisting of CHO, WISH, HepG2, Cos, CV- 1.HeLA, and Hakat U937 cells.

16. (Previously presented) A method for the production of a recombinant protein comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 13 and isolating the recombinant protein produced.

17. (Previously presented) A recombinant virus vector which comprises a portion of the virus genome, a DNA fragment encoding a gene of interest and a DNA fragment comprising a DNA sequence encoding the human IL- 18BP promoter according to claim 1, operably linked to the gene of interest.

18. (Original) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 17, wherein the gene of interest is selected from interferon-beta, TNF, erythropoietin, tissue plasminogen activator, granulocyte colony stimulating factor, manganese-superoxide dismutase, an immunoglobulin, or fragment thereof, growth hormone, FSH, hCG, IL- 1 8, hsLDLR and TNF receptor binding proteins.

19. (Original) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 17, wherein the portion of the virus genome belongs to an adeno-associated virus.

20. (Original) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 17, wherein the portion of the virus genome belongs to a retrovirus.

21. (Original) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 20, wherein the retrovirus is selected from I-RV, HFV, MLV, FIV and VSV. 42 .

22. (Previously presented) A method of regulating cell specific expression of a gene of interest, comprising transducing a target mammalian cell with a vector according to claim 17 and transplanting such cell in an individual in need.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the target cell is an hematopoietic stem cell.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the target cell is a monocyte.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein the target cell is a macrophage.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the gene of interest encodes a protein conferring resistance to HIV infection.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, for the treatment of HIV infection.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22 for the treatment of hematopoietic disorders.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein the hematopoietic disorder is selected from SCID, chronic granulornatous disease and thalassemia.

30. (Previously presented) A method of gene therapy for the treatment of a disease in an individual exhibiting elevated IFNγ in a body tissue, comprising the administration of an effective amount of a vector according to claim 17.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30 further comprising the administration of IL-6 and/or TNF-a and or IRF and or C/EBPP factors.

32. (Previously presented) A transgenic mouse harbouring the DNA sequence encoding a DNA sequence according to claim 1.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a DNA sequence encoding the human IL- 18BP functional promoter encoded by [[(]]SEQ ID NO: 1[[)]], or a functional human IL-18BP promoter activity containing fragment or a functional human IL-18BP promoter activity containing derivative thereof wherein the 3' end of said DNA sequence or fragment thereof comprises one to 51 ~~or more~~ nucleotides from the 5' end of SEQ ID NO: 5.